

**A Prayer
Upon
Entering
Church**

O Holy Spirit, truth and peace divine, descend to us in all your saving power, and kindle flames of love and faith to shine within our yearning hearts this sacred hour! Make plain the Father's will, the Savior's love, and fit us all to dwell with you above.
~Ernest E.

Ryden,
Born 1886
A.D.



The Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2020 + 9:00 A.M.

Welcome to the Lord's Day. Ten bridesmaids await the arrival of the groom, but only five joined Him and His bride at the wedding feast. Why? Because five of them fell asleep and missed His arrival! Our Lord Jesus uses this story to encourage us in the true faith. Faith is expecting and waiting for Jesus in every circumstance, which means expecting and waiting for His *goodness* in every circumstance, even very difficult, sad, or painful ones. We have good reason for such faith: He is, after all, the One who was willing to join us even in our death and grave!

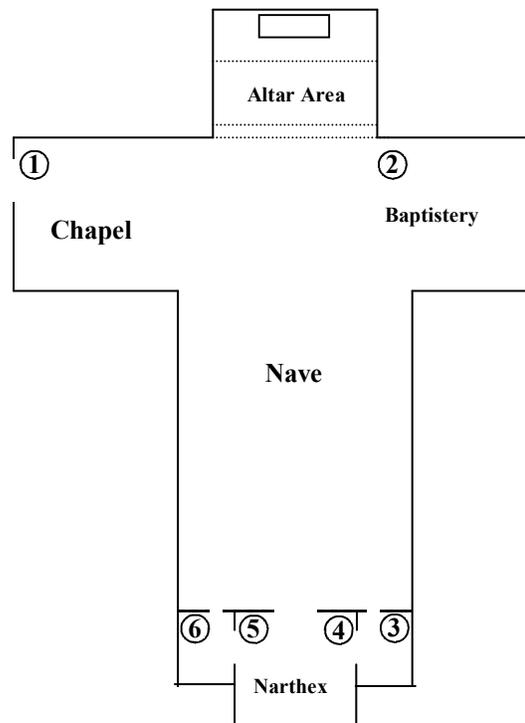
Sharing God's Blessings Today

- Sunday's Radio Broadcast is sponsored in loving memory of Geneva Boelter by her daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Richard Merlau.
- The flowers at the altar are sponsored by Marion Zahrt, in honor of her 85th birthday on November 9.

To Share Your Offering

Offerings are received in **Zion's wooden offering boxes built into the walls of the church**. Please see the map, where the boxes are labeled by **number (1-6)** or ask an usher for assistance.

This returns us to an older and beautiful tradition of the Lutheran church in which offerings are not collected during worship so as to focus more intently on God's gifts and offerings to us.





PRELUDE

Two compositions based on "Wake, Awake" (Wachet Auf)
... John Ferguson and Robert A. Hobby

RINGING OF THE BELLS

Please stand.

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Please kneel. Silence for reflection.

There's no doubt. We have absolute certainty of salvation. Christ has accomplished it all on the cross. So if the ultimate is sure, the penultimate is no longer so deadly serious.

~ Pr.

*Matthew Harrison,
referencing
Luther,
August 1,
2013*

And our de - spair he turned to blaz - ing joy.
 As liv - ing mem - bers of our Sav - ior Christ.
 Bap - tized, we live with God the Three in One.
 The u - ni - verse re - stored and whole will sing;

Hal - - - le - lu - - jah!
 Hal - - - le - lu - - jah!
 Hal - - - le - lu - - jah!
 Hal - - - le - lu - - jah!

*The marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has made herself ready. I will take you for my wife in faithfulness; and you shall know the Lord. Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.
 ~Rev. 19:7,9
 Hosea 2:20*

APOSTOLIC GREETING and COLLECT

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray . . . Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth your Son to lead home his bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into his eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen**

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT Amos 5:18-24

¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, ¹⁹as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. ²⁰Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹"I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings

Christ's kingdom comes into being both on the Last Day and now as we await that Day. Sitting at the right hand of the Father, He has dominion over all creatures even now. His kingdom is real even now on this earth in His Church. Through Word and sacrament He is even now present on earth for His believers and has never left them...

of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 70

L: Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.

C: **Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

L: Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, because they are ashamed.

C: **Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"**

L: But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me speedily, O God.

C: **You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.**

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that

we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

VERSE

L: Alleluia, Alleluia!

Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord,

...But the kingdom of Christ has not yet been revealed; it is still hidden among sinners. His presence is concealed in human word and earthly elements. Only on the Last Day will His dominion become visible before all eyes.
~Edmund Schlink,
Theology of the Lutheran Confessions,
1961 A.D.

The Holy Spirit wants the whole you. So the Spirit is going to raise you, the real you, the whole you, the person you are. It will be "the resurrection of the body," as the Creed says, and you will be with Christ forever. For God has decided that you are one of the saints and declared you so, promising to forgive and raise you from the dead.

~Gerhard Forde and James Nestingen, 1975 A.D.

open to us.' ¹²But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
 C: Praise to you, O Christ.

APOSTLES CREED

P: Let us confess the faith with one heart:
 C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the \times resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Please be seated.

HYMN OF THE DAY "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"



1. Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - - ing,
 2. Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - - ing,
 3. Now let all the heav'ns a - dore you,



The watch - men on the heights are cry - ing;
 And in her heart new joy is spring - ing.
 And saints and an - gels sing be - fore you.



A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom,
 The harps and cym - bals all u - nite.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - - es,
 For her Lord comes down all - glo - - rious,
 Of one pearl each shin - ing por - - tal,



And at the thrill - ing cry re - joic - es;
 The strong in grace, in truth vic - to - rious.
 Where, dwell - ing with the choir im - mor - tal,



"Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.
 Her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 We gath - er round your daz - zling light.



The bride - groom comes! A wake; Your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Oh, come, you Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has seen, no ear Has yet been trained to hear.



Al - le - lu - ia! Pre - pare your - selves to meet the Lord,
 Sing ho - san - na! We go un - til the halls we view
 What joy is ours! Cre - scen - dos rise; your halls re - sound;



Whose light has stirred the wait - ing guard.
 Where you have bid us dine with you.
 Ho - san - nas blend in cos - mic sound.

SERMON

“What Is and Is Not the End”

Please kneel.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all creation according to its needs.

P: . . . Lord in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY

As the pastors prepare the altar for the Holy Supper, vocal or instrumental music provides a time for worshipers to prepare for the Holy Supper, offering thanks to God and asking for the blessing of His Holy Spirit. When the Offertory ends, please stand.

“Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”

Hail to the Lord’s anointed,
Great David’s greater Son!
Hail, in the time appointed,
His reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
To set the captive free,
To take away transgression
And rule in equity.

He comes with rescue speedy
To those who suffer wrong,
To help the poor and needy
And bid the weak be strong;
To give them songs for sighing,
Their darkness turn to light,
Whose souls, condemned and dying,
Were precious in His sight.

He shall come down like showers
Upon the fruitful earth;
Love, joy, and hope, like flowers,
Spring in His path to birth.
Before Him on the mountains
Shall peace, the herald, go;
And righteousness in fountains
From hill to valley flow.

Kings shall fall down before Him
And gold and incense bring;
All nations shall adore Him,
His praise all people sing.
To Him shall prayer unceasing
And daily vows ascend;
His kingdom still increasing,
A kingdom without end.

O'er ev'ry foe victorious,
He on His throne shall rest,
From age to age more glorious,
All blessing and all-blest.
The tide of time shall never
His covenant remove;
His name shall stand forever —
That name to us is Love.

Please stand.

The church must be prepared to see that the end times begin with the death and resurrection of Jesus. After this beginning of the end, God's grace will no longer come through animal sacrifices at the stone temple. Rather, his grace will come through what the Lord has instituted to be the worship life of the church: catechesis, Baptism, Lord's Supper. This font of the church's life prepares the people of God for the parousia [that is, the coming of Christ], which could come at any time.

*~ Arthur Just,
Concordia
Commentary*

The Holy Communion, a pledge of the resurrection, is one no one can rationalize. It is not a resurrection which happened years ago, but a living fact now, that is, set in our midst; the living Christ down to earth again, centered at the altar of our church. Christ is not merely coming to me, not merely with me, but in me, my hope of glory...

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray . . . Merciful Lord,

C: **we do not come to your table trusting in our own righteousness but in your manifold and great mercies. Grant us so to eat the flesh of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and so to drink his blood that we may ever dwell in him, and he in us. Amen**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.



☐ **And al - so with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.



☐ **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



☐ **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right and salutary . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



☐ **Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of**



pow'r and might: Heav'n and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

In the same way also he took the cup after the supper, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink of it, in remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

ACCLAMATION

P: The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you. As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,

C: we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*...Through the Communion the living Christ becomes a reality; through it we enter into fellowship with the mind of Christ, not only the humiliated, but also the exalted Christ. And if we have this mind in us a mighty energy is let loose. We, too, shall be exalted. Here, then, we find the source for Christian life, the resurrected Christ Himself in us.
~Berthold von Schenk, 1946 A.D.*

AGNUS DEI ("Lamb of God")



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

The congregation is ushered forward for Communion. The pastor will hand you the holy Body. Please take a cup of the holy Blood as directed. Those who do not commune may cross their arms over their chest as they come forward to ask for a blessing.

Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ which He joyfully gives to His Church to eat and to drink. This gift bestows tremendous benefits. His Body and Blood forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, binds us to the Lord, and unites us with each other. In this is life and salvation.

The Lord therefore invites to His altar baptized Christians who trust that they will receive in Holy Communion all that He promises there: His body and blood, the forgiveness of sins, union with Christ and His Church, life, and salvation. Know that He gives it to you with great joy.

COMMUNION HYMNS:

The vocal ensemble will sing the hymns.

The texts are printed for prayerful meditation.

“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

Let all mortal flesh keep silence
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand
Christ our God to earth descending
Comes our homage to demand.

King of kings yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords in human vesture,
In the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav’nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way
As the Light of Light, descending
From the realms of endless day,
Comes the pow’rs of hell to vanquish
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
“Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

(continued next page)

*Be present at
our table, Lord;
be here and every-
where adored.
These creatures
bless, and grant
that we may
feast in paradise
with thee.*

*~John
Wesley,
18th
Century
A.D.*

“Wide Open Stand the Gates”

Wide open stand the gates adorned with pearl,
While round God’s golden throne
The choirs of saints in endless circles curl,
And joyous praise the Son!
They watch Him now descending
To visit waiting earth.
The Lord of Life unending
Brings dying hope new birth!

He speaks the Word the bread and wine to bless:
“This is My flesh and blood!”
He bids us eat and drink with thankfulness
This gift of holy food.
All human thought must falter —
Our God stoops low to heal,
Now present on the altar,
For us both host and meal!

The cherubim, their faces veiled from light,
While saints in wonder kneel,
Sing praise to Him whose face with glory bright
No earthly masks conceal.
This sacrament God gives us
Binds us in unity,
Joins earth with heav’n beyond us,
Time with eternity!

Please stand after all have received the sacrament.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✕ give you peace.



SILENT PRAYER

POSTLUDE

"We Know that Christ Is Raised"

... Robert A. Hobby

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for children preschool age through grade 6 begins in the east balcony, above the Baptistry. Children will gather first in the Baptistry area and then proceed up the steps together.

Preschool through Grade 4 remain in the balcony for all of the Sunday School time. Grades 5-6 proceed to the conference room/library (by the elevator) after the music portion. Please reclaim your children at 10:45 a.m.

+ Soli Deo Gloria +

To God alone be glory

A Prayer As You Go

Deliver us,
Lord, from
every evil, and
grant us peace
in our day. In
your mercy
keep us free
from sin and
protect us from
all anxiety, as
we wait with
joyful hope for
the coming of
your Son, Jesus
Christ our
Lord. Amen.

~Psalm

Prayer for

Psalm 70

Serving at Worship

Preaching: The Rev. Dr. Steven K. Gjerde

Presiding: The Rev. Christopher Johnson

(Pr. Gulhaugen at Bethany, 10:30)

Organist: Kantor Irene Beethe

Vocal Ensemble: Ivan Beethe; Steve Kroening; Jim Speckhard

Clarinet: Dan Maguire

Lector: Robert Hochberger

Radio Announcer: Scott Schubring

Acolyte: Emma Pagel

Elder: Robb Halverson

Ushers: Marty and Janet Dettmering;

Landis and Jewell Holdorf;

Gary and Sue Wolslegel

Altar Guild: Kay Krall; Vicky Radunz

Acknowledgements

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Zion Lutheran Church

Sixth and Grant Streets, Wausau, Wisconsin 54403

Those who trust in the Lord shall be like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides forever. (Psalm 125:1)

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Senior Pastor Steven K. Gjerde
Associate Pastor Christopher S. Johnson
Int. Assoc. Pastor Theodore B. Gulhaugen
Kantor Irene Beethe
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Host of the Wausau Lutheran Hour
Sundays, 9:00 am, WSAU Radio 550AM (or
click "Listen Live" at www.wsau.com)

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